(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The Government has seen the article which appeared in "India Today" of November 15, 1987 under the caption "Shuffling the Pack".

(b) to (d) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court are made in accordance with the provisions of article 124 of the Constitution. Appointments and Transfers of Judges of High Courts are made in accordance with the provisions of articles 217 and 222 of the Constitution respectively.

The Government of India have adopted the policy of having Chief Justices of High Courts from outside; the guidelines for implementing this policy are contained in the Press Note dated 28-1-83, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. *(Sc below)* It is not correct to state that the recent appointments and transfers have been made in violation of the Constitutional provisions or the guidelines.

PRESS NOTE—Dated 28-1-1983

Pursuant to persistent demand from responsible bodies, the Government have, after considering various aspects of the matter and after consulting the Chief Justice of India, decided to adopt a policy of having Chief Justices of all High Courts from outside and to keep in view certain broad guidelines when implementing this policy. These guidelines are as follows: —

(i) For purposes of elevation as Chief Justices the *inter se* seniority of puisne Judges will be 'reckoned on the basis of their seniority in their own High Courts and, subject to suitability, they will be considered for appointment as Chief Justices in other High Courts when their turn would normally have come for being considered for such appointments in their own High Courts.

(ii) A Chief Justice who has only one year or less to retire may not be transferred to another High Court.

(iii) A puisne Judge in a High Court who has one year or less to retire when his turn for being considered for elevation as Chief Justice arrives may, subject to suitability, be considered for appointment as Chief Justice in his own High Court if a vacancy is to occur in the office of the Chief Justice in that High Court during that period.

2. While implementing the aforesaid 'policy the appointments/transfters shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 217 or Article 222 of the Constitution, as the case may be.

Development of Women in the SAARC Countries

*292. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC Summit which was recently held in Kath-mandu focussed its attention on the political, geographical, social and cultural barriers in the way of development of the women folk in the SAARC countries: and

(b) what were the suggestions made and adopted to improve the condition of 'rural women in these countries

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) SAARC member countries have attached great importance to the role of women in development and have established a Technical Committee for this purpose. Currently, this Technical Committee is chaired by India and the report of its third meeting was considered at the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries held recently in Kathmandu, proceeding the Third SAARC Summit.

(b) A workshop on Training for Senior Personnel in Rural Women's Development was held at Anand in October this year. There are several other workshops/seminars focussing on improving the condition of rural women which are scheduled to be held during 1988. The suggestions/recommendations emerging from these will be considered by the Technical Committee on Women in Development at its subsequent meetings.

Election Commissions in States

*293. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up Independent State Level Election Commissions in all the States as demanded by various State Governments:

(b) if so, the names of such States which have approached the Central Government for the purpose: and

(c) the decision taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No State has approached the Union Government for setting up independent State level Election Commissions.

(c) Does not arise.

SAARC countries to have common television programme

*294. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: WSJ1 the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC countries have decided to have common Television programmes for transmission in the near future;

(b) whether any decision has been taken in the recent SAARC conference in Nepal in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the subjects on which the Television programmes are proposed to be telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI-K. NATWAR SINGH); (a) to (c) At the Second SAARC Summit in Bangalore it was agreed in principle to launch a South Asian Broadcasting Programme. The idea was elaborated and made concrete at the meetings of the SAARC member countries held in New Delhi in February and September 1987, as a result of which the SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE), consisting of radio and television programmes contributed by member countries, was launched on the 2nd November, 1987.

The subjects on which the television programmes are proposed to be telecast include:

(i) information regarding developments in areas of common interest—social, economic and cultural;

(ii) experiments and progress in economic development;

(in) developments in science and technology;

(iv) tourism:

(v) common cultural heritage;

(vi) live telecasts/broadcasts of sports events, inauguration of SAARC Summits and major SAARC events;

(vii) any other areas mutually agreed upon.

Central investment in West Bengal

@*295. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTER-JEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Central investment in West

@Previously Starred Question 155 transferred from 17th November, 1987.